

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, February 13, 2019**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 13th day of February, 2019 at 6 p.m. in regular session convened. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Toni Guitrau with the following members present:

Alderman Teresa Miller, Alderman Danette Carrier, Alderman Rhonda Lobell

Absent: None

Also present: Chief of Police William "Bill" Bliss, Assistant Chief of Police/EM Callender

A prayer was offered by Alderman Teresa Miller. Jacob Roberts, with Jr. Beta, led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: The mayor opened the floor to public comments on agenda items. There were no comments.

Guest Speaker(s): None

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of January 2019, as presented, was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and a nays vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications: None

Emergency Manager Report: None

Police Department Report: Chief Bliss reported the following for the month of January: 5 traffic stops ended in arrest, 2 wrecks with no injuries, 1 animal cruelty which led to a warrant-arrest, but the subject was not located, all trash was picked up at the vacant bar on Mecca Rd. Dumpster removed, monitoring for trash deposited on site from La Trace Road. 1 person was notified about littering.

Old Business

- **Grounds Report:** Mayor Guitrau said all is in good condition on the municipal grounds. She has contacted the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission in order to begin the process to have the French Settlement monumental sign from 1975 restored.
- **Road Report:**
- Mayor Guitrau reported directly to LaDOTD the dangers facing motorists at the intersection of La. Hwy 16/La. Hwy. 42 near Moonlight Inn, and at the intersection of La. Hwy. 16/La. Hwy. 444 located near the schools. She requested more reflectors, lighting, striping, signage, and/or even traffic or warning lights be installed. At the intersection at La. Hwy. 16/La. Hwy. 42, people are turning head-on into the wrong lane. At the intersection at La. Hwy. 16 and La. Hwy. 444, people are literally not stopping and are running off the road into private property. DOTD will make improvements to both intersections as soon as weather permits.
- The Amite River Bridge near French Settlement along LA 16 was selected to be replaced based on the bridge condition, posting load limits, and the effort required to open the bridge to marine traffic. The current bridge is a swing span bridge with approximately 15ft. of vertical clearance, while the proposed new bridge will be a fixed bridge with approximately 31 ft. of vertical clearance. Currently, the project is expected to go to bid during the State Fiscal Year of 19/20. This would mean construction would begin between September 2019 and August 2020 and would take roughly two to three years to complete. Funding will be through federal and state dollars. The roadway is currently not anticipated to be closed during construction. The new bridge crossing will be on a slightly offset alignment (about 50 ft. to the west) so the existing roadway and bridge can maintain traffic during construction. Ground vibrations near structures adjacent to the pile driving will be monitored in accordance with DOTD standard specifications. If during the course of pile driving, vibrations exceed established limits, pile driving will be stopped and evaluated to determine what measures are necessary to reduce vibrations.
- The road extension between Mecca Road and La. Hwy. 16 (alternate exit) is now on the Livingston Parish road list to be blacktopped. This is urgent because it is a safety issue with vehicles exiting Mecca Road when they are unable to see oncoming traffic from the north.
- The pot hole at the beginning of Aydeil Lane has been repaired multiple times, but is still breaking apart.

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- Representative Schexnayder is working with DOTD and the Livingston Parish School Board in regard to re-striping the crosswalk between the French Settlement Elementary and High School.

LGAP GRANT – Mayor Guitrau said she received a letter awarding the village with \$6530 of the \$25,000 requested toward the purchase of two natural-gas generators. This LGAP grant was submitted in September 2018.

New Business

Mayor Guitrau proclaimed March 2019 as Flood Awareness Month. She said that Governor Edwards also proclaimed March 2019 as Flood Awareness Month.

Local Events: Upcoming Krewe of Mardi Gras Parade on the Amite River scheduled for February 23, 2019.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Lobell. A yea and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: Carrier

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk